

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 SCS-06 CA-01
MCT-01 PC-01 EUR-12 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 INRE-00
NSCE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 SSO-00 /072 W
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O 210937Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9864

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 5110

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC,MOPS, PINS, CG

SUBJECT: SHABA II SITREP: MAY 21, 1978

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION KINSHASA 21 MAY
REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUBUMBASHI 0523

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI MOPS CG

SUBJC SHABA II SITREP: MAY 21, 1978

1. AMERICAN CITIZENS: NO INFORMATION BEYOND THAT REPORTED IN
LUBUMBASHI 0521.

2. MILITARY ACTIVITIES:

TEN C-141'S ARRIVED AT LUBUMBASHI AIRPORT BETWEEN 1430 AND 1930
(LOCAL) ON MAY 20 CARRYING TRUCKS, JEEPS, AND OTHER MILITARY
HARDWARE FOR FRENCH FORCES. A 2-1MAN AIR FORCE TEAM ACCOMPANIED
THE C-141'S REMAINING OVERNIGHT IN LUBUMBASHI TO HANDLE AIRPORT
OPERATIONS AND POSSIBLE MAINTENANCE. THE PLANES UNLOADED THEIR
EQUIPMENT WITHOUT SHUTTING DOWN THEIR ENGINES AND DEPARTED
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LHRT YE EXKN 15-30 MINUTES OF ARRIVAL. THERE WERE NO PROBLEMS
WITH NAY OF THE OPERATINS. ANOTHER 10 FLIGHT BY C-141S AND
1 C-5A ARE EXPECTED ON MAY 21.

3. MILITARY POSITIONS: NO NEW INFORMATION.

4. POLITICAL:

(A) LUBUMBASHI: RECEIVING REFUGEES FROM KOLWEZI WAS THE CENTER OF ATTENTION IN LUBUMBASHI FOR MOST OF MAY 20. BUSES WERE WAITING AT THE AIRPORT TO TRANSPORT REFUGEES TO THE RECEPTION CENTER AT THE BELGIAN SHOOT WHERE NAMES WERE CHECKED OFF, EMERGENCY MEDICAL ASSISTANCE WAS AVAILABLE, AND KOLWEZI FORMER RESEIDENTS WERE PLACED WITH LUBUMBASHI FRIENDS. THE CURIOUS BEGAN ASSEMBLING AT THE AIRPORT IN THE MORNING. BY THE AFTERNOON WHEN THE C-141S BEGAN ARRIVING, THE AIRPORT WAS JAMMED WITH PEOPLE. STILL NO REFUGEES. PERHAPS THEY HAD ALL BEEN EVACUATED TO KAMINA, THE DESTINATION OF SOME OF THE FIRST PLANES. AT ABOUT 5:30, THE FIRST C130 ARRIVED TO DISCHARGE A FIRST LOAD OF PEOPLE AND SUITCASES WHO WERE MET WITH EMBRACES AND SOBS BY FRIENDS AND KINFOLK. SEEING A FRIEND STEP OFF THE PLANE WAS USUALLY THE FIRST INDICATION THAT HE HAD SURVIVED THE ORDEAL. AT 1800, PRES MOBUTU ARRIVED WITH HIS ENTOURAGE OF AIDES, GUARDS, AND FOREIGN JOURNALISTS. AFTER SPENDING THE DAY IN KOLWEZI. THE GREETING WAS INFORMAL CONFUSED, BUT ENTHUSIASTIC. THE PRESIDENT SEEMED IN GOOD HUMOR AS HE MOVED THROUGH THE ENCIRCLING CROWD TO THE CAR WHICH WHISKED HIM INTO TOWN. OTHER LOADS OF REFUGEES ARRIVED LATER, BUT BECAUSE OF THE CURFEW THERE WERE FEW PEOPLE ON HAND TO WELCOME THEM. MOST OF THE REFUGEES, APPROX 2000 HAD CHOSEN TO GO TO KAMINA AND KINSHASA WHERE THEY COULD FLY DIRECTLY TO EUROPE.

(B) KOLWEZI: THE FRENCH AND BELGIAN PARATROOPERS HAD RETAKEN ALL BUT A FEW POCKETS OF THE EUROPEAN SECTIONS OF THE CITY BY EARLY AFTERNOON. SEVERAL VISITORS NOTED THAT THEY FELT AS IF THEY WERE VISITING A GHOST TOWN OR A SET FROM A BERGMAN FILM. THE
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TWON WAS SILENT, ALMOST STILL. SOME HOUSES AND BUILDINGS WERE SERIOUSLY DAMAGED, BUT FOR MANY ONLY PANES OF GLASS WERE BROKEN. INSIDE THE HOUSES WERE SIGNS OF PILLAGING AND OCCASSIONAL CARNAGE. THE KILLING SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN RANDOM, WHOEVER GOT IN THE WAY OR ANSWERED A QUESTION INCORRECTLY, RATHER THAN TOTALLY SELECTIVE AGAINST FRENCH CITIZENS OR GDM'S HIGH OFFICIALS. GCM REP RENARD WHO WAS TAKEN HOSTAGE AND FORCED TO SEND MESSAGE SAYING THAT ARRIVAL OF FOREIGN PARATROOPERS WOULD HAVE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES WAS NOT ONE OF THE VICTIMS OF THE MASSACRE. AS OF THE MORNING OF MAY 21, ONLY ABOUT 300 CIVILIAN EXPATRIATES REMAINED IN KOLWEZI. THE GCM HAS A TEAM IN KOLWEZI WHICH IS ATTEMPTING TO IDENTIFY THE DEAN WHO WILL PROBABLY BE ALL BURIED AT KOLWEZI.

(C) SMTF MANAGING DIRECTOR ALAN P. PLOESSER (AMCIT) ARRIVED IN LUBUMBASHI ON MAY 19 FROM LUSAKA. HE SAID THAT FRIENDS HAD GOTTEN HIM ACROSS THE BORDER WHICH WAS OTHERWISE CLOSED TO ANYONE BUT ZAIRIANS AND ZAIRE'S PERMANENT RESIDENTS. HE CAME TO TALK WITH THE RESIDENT SMTF PERSONNEL WHO WANT TO PULL OUT COMPLETELY FROM FUNGURUME BECAUSE THEY FEEL THEY ARE THE LIEKELY NEXT VICTIMS OF THE FIGHTING, EITHER FROM ANGY FLNC FORCES OR FLEEING UNDISCIPLINED ZAIRIANS. THE SEVEN REMAINING BRITISH EXPATRIATES ESPECIALLY RESENT THE ORDER FROM KINSHASA FORBIDDING THEM TO

TO EVACUATE WHICH THEY FEEL HOLDS THEM HOSTAGE BUT OFFERS THEM NO SECURITY. PLOESSER IS SYMPATHETIC TO THE SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS, BUT ALSO BELIEVES THAT THE DEPARTURE OF THE LAST EUROPEANS WILL OPEN SMTF'S FACILITIES TO WILD PLUNDERING AND PROVED THE GOVERNMENT WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO CANCEL THE CONCESSION. IN SHORT, HE SEES THE DEPARTURE OF THE EUROPEANS AS THE ENDO OF SMTF.

5. PSYCHOLOGICAL/ RUMBLINGS

LOCAL SECURITY FORCES, POLICE, JMPR, CND - ARE PROFITING MORE EVERY DAY FROM CONTINUING MARTIAL LAW AND THE DECREASING DANGER OF KATANGESE INFILTRATION. THE FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS IS TERRORIZING THE LITTLE PEOPLE IN ORDER TO EXTRACT THEIR LAST PENNY. BOLDNESS OF THE SECURITY FORCES IS SUCH THAT THEY ARE NOW OPENLY COMBING EVEN UPPER-CLASS NEIGHBORHOODS, WHERE THEY HOLD CONFIDENTIAL

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THE ID-CARDS OF UNWARY DOMESTICS, GARDNERS, "MAMAS" ON THEIR WAY TO WORK.
BORG
UNQUOTE
CUTLER

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